

LETTER FROM REPRESENTATIVE HENRY A. WAXMAN



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20515

HENRY A. WAXMAN
29TH DISTRICT, CALIFORNIA

August 2002

Dear Friend:

For the past year, our nation has been focused on the war against terrorism. Members of Congress are united in the effort to protect the American people, and we must strive to assure a proper balance between our security needs and the democratic freedoms our nation was built on.

Our battle against terrorism, however, should not put off solving pressing challenges we face at home. The financial integrity of the Social Security system is in jeopardy. The cost of drugs far outpaces what seniors can afford to pay. Our environmental laws are under persistent attack by special interests seeking financial gain. And, outrageous misconduct at Enron and other large companies has enriched greedy executives and robbed workers and investors of their life's savings.

You can count on me to continue the fight to preserve the Social Security trust fund for current and future retirees; to include a prescription drug benefit for seniors under Medicare; to protect our air, water, and lands against efforts by the Administration and Congressional Republicans to weaken existing laws; and to require strong, ethical standards of conduct for corporations, accounting firms, and financial institutions.

I hope you will take a moment to read more about my congressional work, and stay in touch with me on issues of concern.

With kind regards, I am

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Henry A. Waxman".

Henry A. Waxman

Report: High Costs of Prescription Drugs for Seniors



Congressman Waxman talks to local seniors about the high cost of prescription drugs.

The high cost of prescription drugs is a serious problem for thousands of seniors living in this congressional district and around the country. Since Medicare does not cover the cost of prescription drugs, seniors must often spend thousands of dollars on prescription drugs each year. This poses a severe financial hardship for seniors, forcing many to skip the medications they need.

Recently, I conducted a study of the high cost of prescription drugs for seniors living in the 29th Congressional District. My report found that our seniors are discriminated against and pay far more for prescription drugs than purchasers in other countries. Drug price discrimination against seniors in our area is not unique; it is occurring throughout the United States. On average, seniors without drug coverage pay more than twice as much for the five most popular drugs as purchasers in other developed

nations such as Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, and the United Kingdom. In fact, for some drugs, seniors in our district pay as much as three times the price paid by purchasers in foreign countries. Price discrimination is wrong and Congress shouldn't let the drug companies get away with it.

As you know, the Republican Congress has made it a priority to push through a tax cut plan that mainly benefits the wealthiest one percent of Americans. This makes it difficult to provide a meaningful prescription drug benefit for seniors. I will continue to do all I can for legislation that provides prescription drug coverage under Medicare and puts an immediate end to price discrimination. (If you would like to compare savings under the Democratic plan, which would include prescription drug coverage under Medicare, and the Republican plan, which would rely on private insurance companies for prescription drug coverage, please visit my website at www.house.gov/waxman).

You can also view the complete prescription drug report at www.house.gov/waxman.

Case of the Month:

Congressman Waxman Assists Disabled Minor To Recover Stolen Social Security Benefits*

As you know, in addition to paying retirement benefits to seniors, Social Security provides benefits to disabled workers and children. To be eligible for disability benefits, an individual must be completely disabled and unable to work due to a medical condition.

My constituent, Paul McDonald, was receiving Social Security disability benefits. Since Paul was a minor, the benefits were paid to his stepfather, who was his primary care giver. Paul's stepfather abandoned him, however, leaving Paul's grandfather as his primary care giver. Soon after, Paul's grandfather discovered that Paul's stepfather had been misappropriating Paul's Social Security checks for his own use.

His grandfather contacted the Social Security Administration, but five years later he still had not learned whether Paul would be reimbursed for the stolen payments.

Paul's grandfather then contacted my district office. My office immediately notified the Social Security Administration's Office of the Inspector General, who opened an investigation. The Inspector General's Office recently advised my office that the Social Security Administration had recovered the stolen funds and that Paul would be reimbursed for his missing benefits.

*This is an actual case. The names have been changed to protect the privacy of the individuals.

Visit Congressman Waxman on the Web... or in the District.



Please visit my website at www.house.gov/waxman for:

- The latest news from my office in Washington, D.C.
- Assistance with federal agencies
- Direct e-mail link to my office
- Information for your visit to our nation's capital
- Other useful tips and information

Congressman Waxman and his district office staff help constituents resolve their problems with federal agencies.



Congressman Waxman's Helpful Telephone Numbers and Websites

Question About . . .	Agency	Website	Phone Number
Social Security Benefits	Social Security Administration	www.ssa.gov	(800) 772-1213
Immigration and Citizenship	Immigration and Naturalization Service	www.ins.gov	(800) 375-5283
Veterans' Benefits and Health Care	Department of Veterans Affairs	www.va.gov	(800) 827-1000
Postal Rates, Zip Codes, Locations	United States Postal Service	www.usps.com	(800) 275-8777
Medicare Healthcare Benefits	Medicare	www.medicare.gov	(800) 633-4227
Tax Forms, Tax Refunds, Tax Filings	Internal Revenue Service	www.irs.gov	(800) 829-1040 (213) 576-3140
Elected Officials, Polling Locations, Voter Registration	L.A. County Registrar-Recorder	www.lavote.net	(800) 815-2666
Passports (Replace Lost, Stolen, or Expired)	Department of State	www.state.gov	(310) 575-5700

For assistance with any federal agency, please call my office at (323) 651-1040 or (310) 652-3095.